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**SACRAMENTO REGIONAL TRANSIT**

**MOBILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

## MEETING MINUTES

December 7, 2023

**CALL TO ORDER** **ATTACHMENT 1**

The zoom webinar meeting was called to order at **2:32 p.m.**

**Present Members:**

Frank Trujillo, Jeff Thom, Pam Flohr, Margie Donovan, Charles Johnson, Helen O’Connell, Gene Lozano, German Ayon, Hugh Lafler

**Absent:** Alan Ruzich, Isabel Arreola, Mariano Rosales

**SacRT Staff:** Priscilla Vargas, Blanca Salcedo, Carmen Alba, Casey Courtright, Charity Oakley, Chris Flores, Jamie Poole-Canavari, Lisa Hinz, Mohammed Shahid, Rose Patton, Richard Mitchell, Shawn Reynolds, Austin Greiner, Kathy Sachen

**Guests:** Jeff Tardaguila, Alicia Brown, Brandy Buell, Pauline Elder, Rebekah Witten, Stephanie Jones

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**ACTION:** Ms. O’Connell motioned to approve the minutes from the November 2, 2023, meeting. Mr. Lozano seconded the motion. The motion was carried by voice vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Tardaguila asked why the meeting does not have a Q&A.

Ms. Jones stated that she was formerly known as Stephanie Watts and is receiving email.

**CHAIR REPORT**

None.

Ms. Donovan was concerned about the lack of a quorum at the time of the Chair Report due to confusion about invites to this virtual meeting. Ms. Vargas explained recent scheduling efforts, and Mr. Greiner was directed to contact absent MAC members to join the meeting.

Mr. Thom mentioned the need for verbal notification for people not to board testing trains.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Sacramento/Cal ITP Updated (Casey Courtright, Director, Grants and Capital Programming, Office Management and Budget)**

Mr. Courtright reported that SacRT has a pilot program on light rail using Cal ITP card readers for electronic fare payment. SacRT has worked with Connect Card agencies and has received funds from SACOG and other agencies to expand this program to buses. In July 2023, the scope of work was released, and bids were received. Cal ITP hardware can support an account-based ticketing system, which could replace Connect Card and Zip Pass over time. SacRT has paused procurement to add additional functionality to requests from vendors. SacRT has grant funds to pay for this and will release a new RFP in the next month with options to combine the Connect Card and Zip Pass systems into the same back office. This hardware may begin installation in summer 2024.

Mr. Johnson asked whether this will be installed in light rail before other modes. Mr. Courtright reported that the hardware is already on light rail, and that until a vendor is selected, the mobile app will likely be next to launch, which will serve SacRT GO, light rail, and bus. Mr. Johnson asked about statewide use of this hardware. Cal ITP hardware has been used only by smaller transit agencies so far. Ms. O’Connell asked about how the blind and deaf community would be informed about using this new system. Mr. Courtright said that the marketing department will work on this effort, and more can be determined after a vendor is selected. Mr. Lozano asked about impact on current hardware at light rail platforms, and remaining options for cash payment. Mr. Courtright said that current fare vending machines will stay and will be integrated with new hardware, it is likely only the Connect Card tap devices will be phased out.

Mr. Tardaguila asked about how the statewide program has dealt with issues in creating a database of riders. Mr. Courtright said that this issue contributed to SacRT pausing procurement, and a custom database will be built in Sacramento for riders including their disabled discounts. Mr. Tardaguila also asked about device failures. Mr. Courtright said that backups will be in place, and devices may store data as needed until connection is restored, and equipment will be continuously monitored. Mr. Lozano asked about where new hardware will be placed on low-floor light rail; this will be determined as the design is finalized, but each vehicle will have at least 2 devices. Ms. Donovan asked where devices are currently; there is currently only 1 device, on the A end of each vehicle.

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**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **MAC 2024 Calendar (Priscilla Vargas, ADA Compliance Officer)**

Ms. Vargas shared the proposed calendar for the monthly MAC meetings for 2024. Mr. Johnson said that there were no issues with the schedule.

Mr. Tardaguila suggested including on the form that each meeting is on the third Thursday of the month.

1. **MAC 2024 Work Plan (Charles Johnson, MAC Chair)**

Mr. Johnson requested a copy of the current 2023 Work Plan to be send out, and for MAC members to make further suggestions for inclusions, to be submitted to Ms. Vargas by December 19, 2023, so the Work Plan can be voted on in the January MAC meeting. Ms. Vargas suggested instead sharing the Executive Committee’s Work Plan with the MAC members next week. Ms. O’Connell mentioned some items that may be completed in January 2024. Mr. Lozano suggested Ms. O’Connell look at the items he sent. Mr. Thom clarified that the Executive Committee will create a Work Plan this month and that MAC members may submit further items between then and the next MAC meeting.

Mr. Tardaguila suggested adding to the Work Plan other corrections to light rail stations, monitoring on the I-80, and bus service disruptions on Broadway, and mentioned that passengers in electric wheelchairs are being left behind.

1. **SacRT Service Changes 2024 (James Drake, Senior Manager, Planning)**

This item was tabled for the January 2024 MAC meeting.

1. **SacRT GO Open House Update for 2024 (Priscilla Vargas, ADA Compliance Officer)**

Ms. Vargas reported that the next In- Person Open House will be held on March 23, 2024, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm at the Citrus Heights Community Center. The virtual Open House would likely be March 22, 2024. Ms. Donovan asked if the TC&P Committee will be able to give input, and if the meeting would be announced as fragrance-free. Ms. Vargas said it will be announced as fragrance-free, and the TC&P Committee may discuss it.

Mr. Tardaguila discussed having a contact number in email notices about MAC meeting changes.

1. **Elections for Chair and Vice Chair (Priscilla Vargas, ADA Compliance Officer)**

Mr. Johnson suggested holding the election by acclamation. Ms. Vargas announced that the nominating committee nominated Mr. Thom for Chair and Mr. Johnson for Vice Chair. Mr. Johnson called for a vote and asked 3 times for nominations from the floor. Ms. O’Connell motioned those nominations be closed. Mr. Lozano seconded. Mr. Thom was elected as Chair by acclamation. Mr. Thom discussed succession planning. Ms. Vargas asked 3 times for nominations from the floor. Ms. O’Connell motioned for nominations to be closed. Mr. Lozano seconded. Mr. Johnson was elected as Vice Chair by acclamation.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Lozano discussed the verbal announcements and staff at light rail platforms to prevent boarding during low-floor testing and said that the standing committees should meet to discuss public education, operating procedures, and a visual-auditory public address system including flashing lights. Mr. Lozano also mentioned the ASAP federal funding program for legacy light rail stations, to include in the next A&I Committee meeting. Ms. Vargas stated that light rail audio-visual announcements for the low-floor testing started on December 6, 2023. She stated, however, that a staff member would be at the station during testing and that the test trains would not be in the stations any earlier than 9 PM. Public education events on new trains will begin in summer 2024. Mr. Lozano suggested testing verbal annunciators and including audio description in educational videos. Ms. Vargas said TC&P will meet in January, and that the ASAP will be discussed at the January 18, 2024, meeting.

Ms. Flohr thanked Mr. Johnson for his service as Chair.

Mr. Tardaguila thanked SacRT for efforts on training on ADA policies on buses.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Flohr called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. No abstentions. The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of the Mobility Advisory Council is scheduled for January 18, 2024, from 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.